



May 19, 2020

Washington State Dept of Transportation

RE: CITY OF TACOMA FIRST MILE LAST MILE GRANT APPLICATION – MILDRED STREET BIKE LANES

I am writing on behalf of Pierce Transit to share our enthusiastic support of the City of Tacoma's WSDOT First Mile Last Mile grant application to fund a bike lane connection to the Tacoma Community College Transit Center on Mildred Street from S 12th to N 9th St.

The Tacoma Community College (TCC) Transit Center is an active transit hub serving students, employees, residents, and visitors – with over 500,000 boardings there in 2019. Eight Pierce Transit routes serve this Transit Center.

In 2019, there were 3,660 bicycle boardings at the TCC Transit Center. This project will improve safety for these existing transit riders who use bikes as part of their commute, and improve the accessibility of transit for new riders.

We also look forward to the pedestrian safety benefits this plan will achieve by reducing the number of vehicular traffic lanes pedestrians must navigate when crossing the street.

Pierce Transit has worked with Tacoma Community College to offer discounted ORCA cards to full-time students. This project will increase the reach and impact of that program by increasing safe active transportation access to the TCC Transit Center and improving active transportation connectivity to the Scott Pierson Trail, local retail, and nearby residential developments.

We are excited for the opportunity to work with City of Tacoma and project stakeholders to help spread the word about the new trail-to-transit connection this project will provide. We will also support the City's efforts to track data to measure the impact of this project.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Tacoma's application to construct this critical active transportation connection to transit; we hope you will support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Dreier".

Sue Dreier
CEO



May 15, 2020

President's Office
6501 S. 19th Street
Tacoma, WA 98466

Dear Washington State Department of Transportation Grant Funding Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Tacoma Community College (TCC) to support the City of Tacoma's request for grant funding to create First & Last Mile Connections to transit by striping bike lanes on Mildred Street from South 12th Street to North 9th Street in Tacoma.

TCC is proud to host one of Pierce Transit's largest transit hubs on our Tacoma campus. It serves as a critical point of access for students who do not own cars, and the TCC/Pierce Transit partnership that makes \$10 ORCA cards available to students provides them with significant cost-savings; we understand that it also provides Pierce Transit with a significant ridership increase during normal times when the college campus is open.

The Transit Center's location also makes it easy for students and employees to shrink their personal carbon footprints by choosing to incorporate public transit into their commutes. Having incorporated sustainability into our new Strategic Plan, we honor the steps members of our community take to lower carbon emissions.

Though the TCC Transit Center delivers students, employees and visitors directly onto campus, they may not enjoy that same door-to-door access at the other end of their commutes. So, many members of our community also

incorporate biking into their trips to and from campus, and we at TCC have an interest in making sure that leg of the commute is as safe as possible for our students and employees. Because equity is embedded in our mission, vision, goals, and strategic plan, we don't hesitate to do all we can to advocate for the increased safety of students traditionally underserved by both transit and education.

With all that in mind, TCC strongly supports the City of Tacoma's requests to create First & Last Mile Connections by striping bike lanes from South 12th Street to North 9th Street. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions about how this project would benefit the TCC community, especially students.

Sincerely,

Ivan L. Harrell, II, PhD

TCC President



**Tacoma
Housing
Authority**

Executive Director
Michael Mirra

Board of Commissioners

Derek Young, Chair | Stanley Rumbaugh, Vice Chair
Dr. Minh-Anh Hodge | Dr. Arthur C. Banks | Shennetta Smith

May 12, 2020

Dear Washington State Department of Transportation:

I am writing on behalf of Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) to express my support for the City of Tacoma's WSDOT First Mile/Last Mile grant application that would extend the existing bike lanes on S. Mildred Street from S. 12th Street to N. 9th Street. The mission of THA is to provide high quality, stable and sustainable housing and supportive services to people in need.

Tacoma Housing Authority is deeply invested in the West End neighborhood where this project will be built. We currently own two residential properties less than a half-mile away from the proposed bike lanes on S. Mildred Street: Outrigger and Highland Crest. We also have unique partnerships in the area – including a collaboration with Tacoma Community College (TCC) to offer affordable housing to TCC students experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

In addition, THA purchased James Center North – directly across the street from TCC on Mildred Street-- in 2017. This commercial property is home to beloved small businesses – including local Mexican, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Thai restaurants, medical offices, and a YMCA childcare branch. These organizations, and their staff and customers, will benefit from the increased connectivity this project will provide. THA has worked closely with community stakeholders – including existing tenants - to create a master plan for future redevelopment of this site into a mixed-use development, mixed income transit-oriented development. It will include approximately 500 units of housing and 13 commercial tenants. This proposed bike lane extension aligns with the goals for this project as an attractive and equitable mixed-use, mixed-income transit-oriented development.

Extending the bike lanes on Mildred Street will add an important connection for these THA communities to Tacoma Community College, the TCC Transit Center, grocery stores, and recreational opportunities. The proposed bike lanes will provide an immediate benefit by increasing active transportation connections to existing public transportation options.

An important component of making THA's vision a reality is providing safe, multimodal transportation options so that transportation is not a barrier to people meeting their everyday needs. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Michael Mirra

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Michael Mirra

Executive Director

Tacoma Housing Authority

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